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MR

OLC 78-2031
30 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting With the Staff Members of the House Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and
International Law

X1 1. [] Received a call this morning at 9:30 a.m. from
Arthur (Skip) Endres, Counsel, House Judiciary Subcommittee
on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law, requesting
that after the meeting on the GAO report Nazi war criminals
residing in the U.S., scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in []
office, a briefing be arranged on the refugee situation in Vietnam. 25X
The briefing was for background to assist senior Members of the
full Committee who have been requested to concur in a proposal
by Associate Attorney General Michael Egan to approve the parole
into the United States of an additional 25,000 refugees from
Vietnam. The briefing was given by [] Chief of the
[] Branch, DDO, in []'s office. 25X
Also present were: Jim Cline, Staff Director, House Judiciary 25X
Committee; Arthur (Skip) Endres, Subcommittee Counsel; Peter
Regis, Subcommittee investigator; []; and
[], AC/C&R/OLC. 25X

X1 2. [] was not present during the briefing,
however, he made clear to the staff before the briefing that the
Agency was not in a position to comment on the merit of the
proposal but we could provide background intelligence. This was
understood by the staff. They apologized for the briefing
on such short notice, however, the Members had to make a
decision by 5:00 p.m. this afternoon.

X1 3. [] was aware of the request to parole an
additional 25,000 Vietnamese refugees. He said the ethnic
Chinese problem in Vietnam involving China, which was reported
in the press this past weekend, resulted from the recent
nationalization of all industries and businesses and the
relocation of people affected to rural areas to establish an
agrarian economy. He said there are about 250,000 ethnic
Chinese in North Vietnam residing along the Chinese border who
were the subject of the dispute with China. He considers the
major problem to be the more than one million ethnic Chinese

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living in Cholon outside of Saigon. These people have been merchants and entrepreneurs and are most affected by the nationalization and resettlement orders. He said most will choose to leave if they are allowed to go. Any that do escape will have to go by boat which would place them in a refugee preference category. At this time of the few escaping from Vietnam by boat about 75 per cent are ethnic Chinese. [] said that in his opinion none of the Southeast Asia countries would be willing to accept large numbers of the ethnic Chinese.

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4. [] The staff questioned whether the U.S. had any obligation to accept this group of refugees and indicated that the Members may force an Administration position on this issue before they concur in the proposal to admit 25,000 additional refugees. After the briefing, I confirmed again with Cline that the briefing was solely for background purposes and the Agency was taking no position regarding the Attorney General's proposal. Mr. Cline indicated that he would check back with the State Department to determine whether they are aware of the background of the refugee situation as related by []. From his comments, it is doubtful that the senior Members of the Committee are prepared at this time to support the Attorney General's proposal.

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[]
Acting Chief, Coordination
and Review Staff

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